



SECRETARY OF DEFENSE  
1000 DEFENSE PENTAGON  
WASHINGTON, DC 20301-1000

12/15/2017

The Honorable John Cornyn  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Cornyn:

It was a pleasure to speak with you during our November 20, 2017 call. As I noted during that conversation, I strongly support the Foreign Investment Risk Review Modernization Act of 2017 (FIRRMA). The Department of Defense (DoD) continues to support foreign investment, consistent with the protection of national security. However, as the national security landscape changes, the existing process and authorities must be updated.

DoD depends on critical, foundational, and emerging technologies to maintain military readiness and preserve our technological advantage over potential adversaries. FIRRMA would help close related gaps that exist in both the Committee on Foreign Investment in the United States (CFIUS) and export control processes, which are not presently keeping pace with today's rapid technological changes.

In addition, DoD appreciates the broadening of the scope of review of real estate transactions implicating co-location in close proximity to a military facility and the heightened ability to protect intellectual property and related defense industrial capabilities. CFIUS plays a critical role in protecting the national security of the United States. FIRRMA greatly strengthens that protection and provides much needed CFIUS modernization. Thank you for your leadership on this important issue.

Sincerely,

*John Mattis*



